



ADAM JARCHOW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

JARCHOW SUPPORTS PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Private property rights are a bedrock concept of our republic. No local government owns your land, no community group owns your land and the DNR sure as heck does not own your land. You own your land. When I ran for this office, I promised people that I would not be just another go along to get along career politician. I promised that I would go to Madison and fight for those things I believe in. One of those things is private property rights. In that light, recently I proposed and the Joint Finance Committee adopted, a motion that would protect your private property rights. This motion reigns in the excesses and abuses that we have seen at the hands of the DNR and counties over the years. I have borne witness to the agony and terror that property owners go through when government tells them they can't fix their home – they must tear it down and move it back. I have seen the frustration when homeowners are told that they cannot build a garage on their lot. I have witnessed the anger, when property owners are not allowed the rebuild a structurally unsafe garage or deck (in the same location). I have seen the irritation when property owners have been told that they must tear out their lawn and replace it with plants chosen by a government bureaucrat. And my answer is simple. Enough is enough.

I have spent many, many hours fishing, boating, waterskiing, swimming, kayaking and canoeing in our lakes and rivers. It's no exaggeration to say that I love them and want to protect them. I believe we can do that while still protecting property rights. The motion I proposed does exactly that. It reaffirms our commitment to a uniform statewide shoreland zoning standard that is science-based and goes through a rigorous public hearing process. It ensures that property owners will know the rules because the rules will now be uniform and certain, instead of hodgepodge that vary wildly from county to county and lake to lake. It ensures that homeowners will have the absolute right to fix and rebuild their homes, garages and other structures so long as they do not expand the footprint (i.e, not one drop of extra runoff). It ensures that homeowners can enjoy a patio or deck on their property, so long as they mitigate the runoff so it never reaches the lake or river. It ensures homeowners will never be told to tear out their lawn or shut off their landscape lights.

While I understand that there are some who prefer a top down, command and control approach to shoreland zoning, I prefer an approach that protects fundamental property rights, while encouraging people to comply with the rules (because the rules will now be workable, uniform, understandable and fair). This will result in much better compliance, more people applying for permits (instead of skirting the rules) and a larger tax base. I believe we can do two things at once – protect lakes and rivers and protect property rights. I hope you will join me in this important fight.

Rep. Adam Jarchow (R- Balsam Lake)
28th Assembly District